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THREE VERSIONS OF A RESOLUTION

The aggressive attack on Egypt and the events in Hungary have given rise to various comments and reactions among the youth of every country and among many national and international organizations.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) also reacted to the aggression against Egypt and to the events in Hungary.

It is not our intention to appraise the attitude of the Federation towards these events. We also agree with the WFDY that, "There are differences between youth and the youth organizations in appraising the causes and character of the Hungarian events ..." and therefore it is logical that the WFDY must have its own version. But an interesting fact here is that the WFDY appears to have several versions to these events. So far we have had the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with three official versions, with the three versions of one same resolution issued on December 1, 1956, by the Secretariat.

We read the first version of the WFDY Secretariat's resolution of December 1 in the "Komsomolskaya Pravda" of December 6, and it was transmitted from Budapest by TASS. Somewhat later, in the December issue of the "Information Bulletin" of the WFDY (No. 11), we again came across the Secretariat's resolution of the same date. It, however, did not coincide with the resolution published in "Komsomolskaya Pravda". In the January issue of the WFDY review "World Youth" we were acquainted with the third text of the resolution of December 1, which is not identical with the first two.

The first part of the resolution, which speaks of Egypt, in the main contains differences in style, but also such that in several places the weaker formulations in the "Information Bulletin" have been replaced in "World Youth" by sharper ones.

There are greater substantial departures in the part of the resolution speaking of Hungary. The first passage is the same in all three versions except for some stylistic changes. The changes occur in the second passage.

Here is the first text, from the "Information Bulletin":

"The fraternal solidarity of our Federation and of the youth of all countries turns towards the hard hit Hungarian youth. The WFDY, bowing deeply moved before the victims, supports the vital work of peaceful reconstruction which the Hungarian youth have already begun. The Hungarian youth realise that the restoration of their country depends first and foremost on the laborious efforts of its people and that in these efforts the place of youth is in the front ranks."

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Now here is the text from the January issue of "World Youth":

"In these difficult days the Hungarian youth are benefitting from the friendly solidarity of the youth of the world and of our Federation. The WFDY expresses its sympathy for the victims and supports the urgent work of peaceful reconstruction. Hungarian youth, who understand that their national recovery depends on the efforts of all their people, have already begun this work, taking their places in the front ranks.

The third, last, passage also contains substantial differences. The text published in the "Information Bulletin" speaks of "the initiatives taken by the young Hungarians for building up their organizations", while "World Youth" speaks of "the new organizations now being built by the Hungarian youth". Or, the "Information Bulletin" states that "The WFDY Secretariat wishes that the question of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops be resolved on the conditions to be agreed upon between the Hungarian Government and the USSR on the basis of independence of the Hungarian people and of World Peace".

"World Youth" states:

"The Secretariat of the WFDY hopes that the question ..."

"Komsomolskaya Pravda" published the second and third passages in its own version. These two passages have been combined and shortened. "Pravda" states that, "The WFDY supports the efforts of Hungarian youth to organize the youth movement"; (translation from Russian) in the other two versions this support is absent. "Komsomolskaya Pravda" completely left out that sentence from the statement -- by synthesizing and altering the text in style -- which says that the reconstruction of Hungary depends primarily and chiefly on the working efforts of its people....

There are also differences in the third, longest, part of the resolution. The texts in the "Information Bulletin" and "World Youth" are so different in style that even the meaning of some of the sentences has been changed. Nevertheless, the most original text is in "Komsomolskaya Pravda". This is a shortened and reset text, which ends with the following sentence: "The WFDY calls youth, the youth organizations of all countries to increase their vigilance before the provocations of the enemies of peace and to double their efforts in the struggle against the threats of war." Neither this sentence nor anything like it is to be found in the other two versions. On the contrary, the other two versions end with the WFDY's call to all organizations for cooperation in order to fulfil the wishes of youth.

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It would be interesting to know why "Komsomolskaya Pravda" substituted a call for vigilance, which is not to be found in the WFDY resolution, for a call to cooperation, supposedly sent out by the WFDY.

Of late the WFDY has often spoken much of cooperation and friendship between youth. But cooperation primarily requires trust, especially after everything that has accumulated during the past years. But it is hard to create trust if the WFDY leadership has two estimates and two stands on a single question, one for inside consumption and the other one for outside. This inadvertently reminds us of the recent past of this organization.